

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

IO-13 LAB-04 SIL-01 /069 W

-----190148Z 106879 /20

R 180848Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7344

CINCPAC PIO

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 1135

USIAC

CINCPAC FOR ABLE

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION TO WOODCOCK MISSION TO HANOI

1. COMMENTING ON WOODCOCK MISSION TO HANOI, SINGAPORE'S MORNING DAILY STRAITS TIMES IN EDITORIAL TITLED "A NEW START?" SAID, "CHANGE-OVER OF POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IS OFTEN OPPORTUNITY IN FOREIGN POLICY TO MAKE FRESH ATTEMPT AT MENDING FENCES WITH ANOTHER COUNTRY, OR IN TAKING DIFFERENT TACK, AND THIS IS WHAT PRESIDENT CARTER HOPES TO ACHIEVE BY SENDING MISSION TO HANOI. BUT LEONARD WOODCOCK'S DELEGATION SERVES MR CARTER ALSO- PERHAPS PRIMARILY-- FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSE, THAT IS RESOLUTION OF AMERICANS MISSING IN ACTION ISSUE, AND THIS AIM--TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO MEN UNACCOUNTED FOR IN WAR-- IS CLEARLY STATED REASON FOR DESPATCH OF MR WOODCOCK'S TEAM. QUESTION OF RECONSTRUCTION AID TO VIETNAM IS UNLIKELY TO BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY CARTER ADMINISTRATION UNTIL AFTER REPORT ON MR WOODCOCK'S VISIT IS READY. WASHINGTON'S POSITION IS, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE, THAT THERE IS NO SECRET AGREEMENT IN EXISTENCE TO

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PROVIDE FOR 'WAR REPARATIONS' (AS VIETNAMESE WOULD LIKE TO CALL IT) AND CERTAINLY THERE IS NO ONUS FOR UNITED STATES TO MAKE ANY KIND OF RESTITUTION.

2. VIETNAMESE, ON THE OTHER HAND, APPEAR TO BE ANXIOUS TO IMPROVE TIES WITH AMERICANS, JUDGING BY THEIR WARM AND RELATIVELY HIGH-LEVEL WELCOME FOR THEIR AMERICAN GUESTS.

HANOI HAS GROUND FOR WANTING TO START ANEW, FREE FROM BITTERNESS OF PAST. NOT ONLY IS THERE PROSPECT OF AID, BUT VIETNAM ALSO NEED TECHNOLOGY AND TRADE; VIETNAMESE DESIRE TO OFFSET THEIR DEPENDENCE ON RUSSIANS AND CHINESE IN THESE AREAS. VIETNAM SEEMS TO HAVE SOFTENED ITS STANCE ON QUESTION OF AID RECENTLY, AND TERMS SUCH AS 'REPARATIONS' HAVE BEEN DROPPED FROM HANOI'S VOCABULARY. WASHINGTON SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS MOOD, IF MR WOODCOCK CAN CONFIRM ITS PRESENCE, TO EMBARK ON MORE CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH HANOI. U.S. SHOULD NO LONGER BLOCK VIETNAM'S MEMBERSHIP TO UNITED NATIONS, AND IF BILATERAL DIFFICULTIES CAN BE SORTED OUT, PRESIDENT CARTER CAN HELP STABILITY OF REGION BY RESPONDING TO VIETNAMESE REQUIREMENTS ACCORDING TO DEGREE TO WHICH HANOI IS PREPARED TO LEAVE NON-COMMUNIST SOUTHEAST ASIA UNMOLESTED."

STRYKER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Subject:** MEDIA REACTION TO WOODCOCK MISSION TO HANOI  
**TAGS:** PFOR, OVIP, US, VN, LA, (CARTER, JIMMY), (WOODCOCK, LEONARD)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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